Leathes, J B

March-Apr. 1920 (021)

March 20th, 1920

Professor J. B. Leathes,
University of Sheffield,
Sheffield, England.

Dear Professor Leathes:

We have not been able to fill the chair of Pathological Chemistry since the transfer of Dr. Hunter to the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Archibald Robertson in Biochemistry. Our committee met yesterday afternoon and the universal opinion was that we should consult you first as to whether there was any possibility of your returning to Toronto. Is there anything that we can do to make the position sufficiently attractive to you to bring you back ? It might be that we could assign some additional duties for you in the Faculty which would give you a larger influence in the development of it, but we would like to know whether you have finally decided against returning to Canada whatever the offer might be.

Perhaps you would be good enough to cable me on receipt of this letter saying "yes" if there is a chance of your coming so that we may communicate with you further on the matter, or "no" if you have finally decided not to return to Toronto.

This year we have as all other Universities an enormous attendance and in Medicine about 1100. The Faculty, however, is in very good spirits and there is a fine body of younger men who are full of energy and hope.

Last week Dr. George Vincent and Dr. Pearce, the representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation visited the University on a trip across the Dominion to become acquainted with the different Medical Schools in view of the five million dollar gift that Mr. Rockefeller has made for the development of medical education in Canada. We know nothing yet as to what we are likely to get, but we hope to get a not inconsiderable share,

and this should help us greatly in the further development.

I hope that Mrs. Leathes and Margaret are well. With kind regards,

I am,.

Yours sincerely,

President.

Ap 8. 1920

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THE UNIVERSITY,
SHEFFIELD.

Dear Mr President

The essential part of my answer to your letter of March 20th was contained in my cable dispatched the day after receiving it. I dont know that you will want to hear much more from me. But you should know how much I appreciate the kindness that you & my friends in Toronto have shown me & how hard it was to reopen the wounds of an old decision - From many aspects I know that I was wrong, in the balance I hope that I was right. At any rate there is no lack of work to be done anywhere - We are as hard put to it to find the men we want here as you are. For our difficulties of that kind here I have come to the con-

clusion that there is no immediate solution the only thing is to train & offer inducements to men to train themselves to meet the needs on the spot. And I dont see how in England we are going to be able for some time to spare men for needs elsewhere. You have good men who are certain to do well in the future and among them I feel your needs may be met.

For this particular post have you thought of Campbell? He has character & a good training as far as it goes. I think he would respond to the stimulus of responsibility & ripen with experience. There is a good deal to be said for a young staff, when they have the grit that he has.

Yours sincerely

J B Leathes